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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A methyl ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose ether, wherein the cellulose ether has a flocculation temperature of 70-95°C, a DS-methyl of 0.1-0.8 and a DS-ethyl of 0.1-0.7.
2. (previously presented) The cellulose ether of claim 1, having a MS-hydroxyethyl of 1.5-2.8.
3. (previously presented) The cellulose ether of claim 1, having a DS-methyl of 0.2-0.6, a DS-ethyl of 0.2-0.6 and a MS-hydroxyethyl of 1.7-2.5.
4. (previously presented) The cellulose ether of claim 3, having a flocculation temperature of 78-85°C.
5. (previously presented) The cellulose ether of claim 1 further comprising substituents selected from hydroxypropyl, substituents containing hydrocarbon groups of 4-22 carbon atoms, or mixtures thereof.
6. (previously presented) A process for manufacturing the methyl ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose ether according to claim 1 which comprises mercerizing cellulose in one or several steps with aqueous alkali in a total amount of 0.8-1.8 moles of alkali per mole saccharide unit; and ethylene oxide in a total amount of 2.6-5.5 moles per mole saccharide unit, methyl chloride in a total amount of 0.2-1.5 moles per mole saccharide unit and ethyl chloride in a total amount of 0.2-1.5 moles per mole saccharide unit are added to and reacted with the mercerized cellulose in one or several steps in the presence of an organic reaction medium at a temperature from 50-120°C.
7. (previously presented) The process of claim 6, wherein the reaction medium is ethyl chloride.

8. (previously presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the cellulose is initially mercerized with a portion of the total amount of alkali; a portion of the total amount of ethylene oxide, a portion of or the total amount of methyl chloride and a portion of or the total amount of ethyl chloride, if ethyl chloride is not present as a reaction medium, are added to and reacted with the initially mercerized cellulose in one or several steps at a temperature from 50-120°C, whereupon the partially substituted mercerized cellulose is further mercerized with the remaining portion of the alkali; and the remaining portion of the ethylene oxide and any remaining portion of methyl chloride and any remaining portion of ethyl chloride, if ethyl chloride is not present as a reaction medium, are added to and reacted with the further mercerized cellulose in one or several steps at a temperature from 50-120°C.

9. (previously presented) An aqueous formulation containing 0.1-2.5% by weight of the cellulose ether of claim 1.

10. (previously presented) The aqueous formulation of claim 9, wherein the formulation is a waterborne paint composition containing a latex binder.

11. (previously presented) A rheology modifier for aqueous compositions which comprises at least one methyl ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose of claim 1.

12. (previously presented) The modifier of claim 11 wherein said aqueous composition is a waterborne latex paint composition.